

Blessings of a Temple Marriage

Church Talk Given by Blanche Huff Barney, 6 December 1953

Historical Introduction

This talk was delivered on 6 December 1953 in a local church meeting in Spanish Fork, Utah, just over two weeks after Blanche Huff Barney (31 Jul 1922 – 18 Mar 1992) and her husband were sealed in the Manti Temple¹ on 18 November 1953. It reflects the joy and testimony of their early marriage.

In it, she shares her joy and testimony after her temple marriage on November 18, 1953, emphasizing the eternal nature of her family. She recounts her and her husband Stephen's journey to a temple marriage, including his conversion and ordination to the priesthood. She expresses gratitude for her husband, children, and the encouragement from church leaders.

Biographical Summary of Blanche Huff

When Blanche Huff was born on 31 July 1922, in Lake Shore, Utah, Utah, United States, her father, Arthur Huff, was 38 and her mother, Gwenllian Lewis Parry, was 35. She married Stephen Huff Barney on 5 April 1940, in Lake Shore, Utah, Utah, United States. They were the parents of three children: Marilyn Barney (1941–2023), Julie Ann Barney (b. 1946), and Kay Stephen Barney (1950–1991). Blanche was a full-time stay-at-home mother after the birth of her first child. She died on 18 March 1992, in Upland, San Bernardino, California, at age 69, and was buried in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California.

Source Notes

- ❖ The original manuscript is in the author's handwriting.
- ❖ The original manuscript remained in the possession of Stephen Huff Barney until he gave it to his grandson, Matthew Jason Taylor, who holds it today.
- ❖ This document was prepared and edited by Matthew Jason Taylor.
- ❖ No other copies are known. Digitized in 2025.

Document Transcript

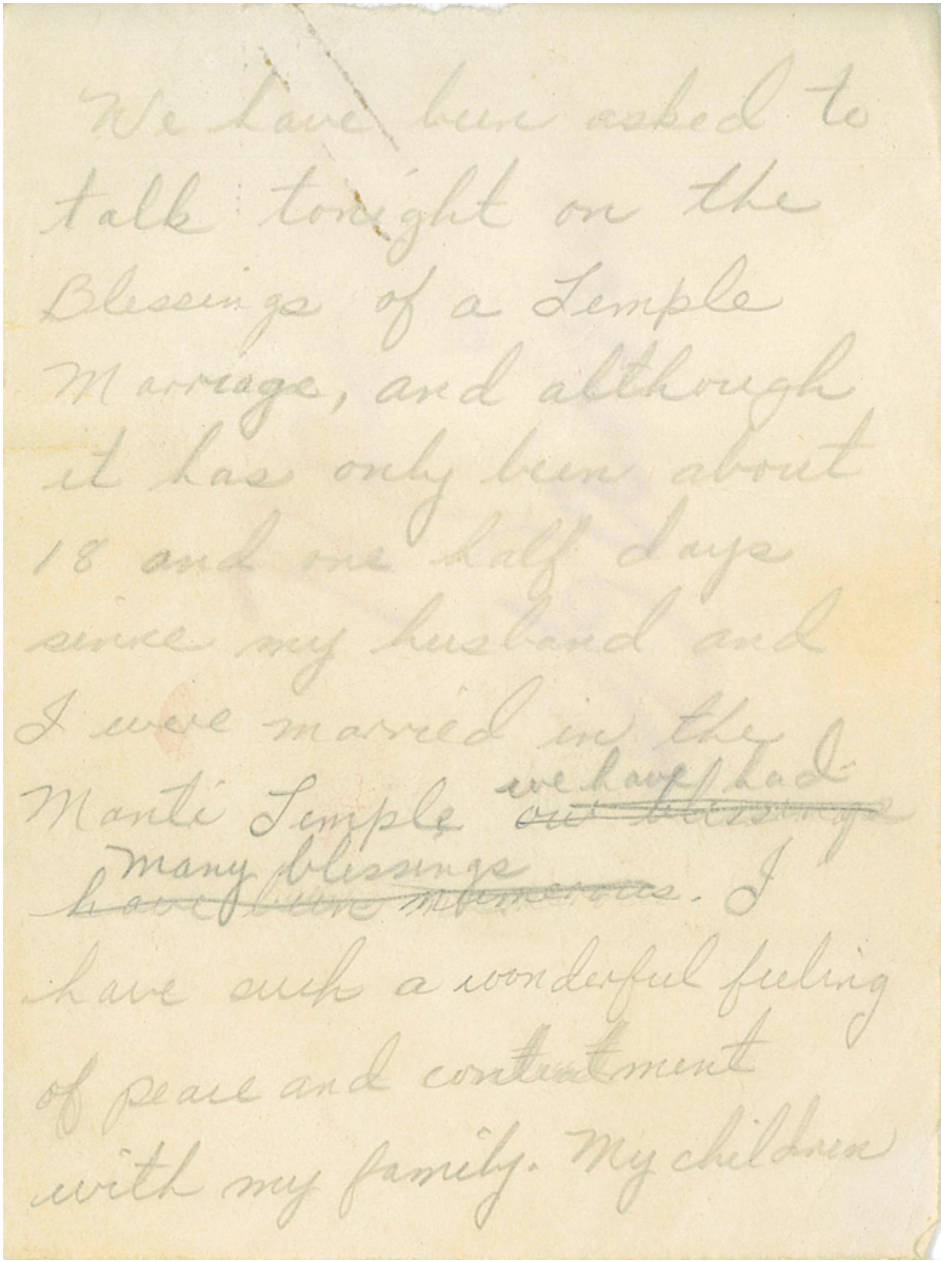
This document presents the author's talk in two verbatim formats: a side-by-side layout comparing the original manuscript with the transcript for textual analysis, and a consolidated full transcript for continuous reading.

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¹ The Manti Utah Temple is a temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located in Manti, Utah.

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Original Manuscript	Verbatim Transcript
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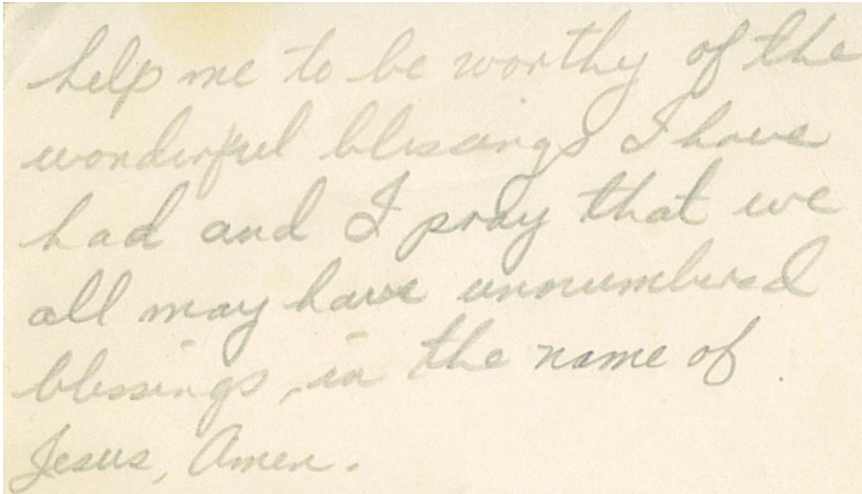
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A photograph of a handwritten note on a piece of aged, yellowed paper. The paper is slightly wrinkled and has some faint stains. The handwriting is in a cursive script, written in dark ink. The text is a prayer for blessings.

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Full Verbatim Document Transcript

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Steve and I were married for the first time about 13 and a half years ago on April 5, 1940⁴ and although I would have liked to have been married in the Temple then, we just didn't have the patience to wait to get ready. My husband didn't hold any priesthood at all and at that time he used tobacco. And since we were terribly young and terribly impatient, we decided to get married then go through the temple later. After that we moved around a lot and then the war came⁵ and we were separated for two years and when Steve came home he told me that he had read the Book of Mormon and the New Testament while he had been in the Service and that he had received much comfort from reading them.⁶ I think it was then that I really have a great desire to go to the Temple and after our second baby was born, we started to go to church a little. But it wasn't until after the ward⁷ was divided a year and a half ago that we really enjoyed taking an active interest in the Church. Everyone was so nice,

² In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a "talk" is a sermon prepared and delivered by a lay member of the congregation. Members are regularly invited to speak during worship services on assigned gospel topics, often sharing personal experiences and testimony.

³ While church members sometimes colloquially refer to this as being "married in the temple," the ordinance is doctrinally a sealing. The term "sealed" refers to a temple ordinance distinct from the couple's initial civil marriage. In this ordinance, a husband and wife are bound, or sealed, together for eternity, and may include living children, as it did in this case. This promises the continuation of their family relationships after death, a blessing that is contingent upon their faithfulness to covenants made in the temple.

⁴ The marriage took place in Lake Shore, Utah.

⁵ This is a reference to World War II (1939–1945). The United States formally entered the war in December 1941.

⁶ The editor, Matthew Jason Taylor, recalls his grandfather, Stephen Huff Barney, stating that he began reading the scriptures in earnest after a Japanese bombing run on Guam landed him in sickbay for a period of time during the war.

⁷ In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a "ward" is a local congregation. A ward is typically divided when the congregation grows large enough to form two separate units. This event often creates new leadership and service opportunities, energizing the members.

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I'm very proud of my husband. I know he has worked way hard to make it possible for us to be married in the Temple and have our children sealed to us. He has always done what has been asked of him and has always done the best he could at whatever task it was. He has always been a patient father and a loving husband, so forgiving of my mistakes and my shortcomings. ~~I hope~~ I am so thankful for my wond-erful husband, and I hope the Lord will help me to be as good a wife ~~to~~ as he is husband. I am also thankful for my three precious children and I hope we can both be

⁸ This refers to James Austin Cope, Jr.(known as J. Austin), who was serving as the bishop at the time. A bishop is the lay leader of a ward.

⁹ "Ward teaching" was a Church program where male priesthood holders were assigned to visit the homes of members monthly to provide spiritual and temporal support. The program has since been replaced by "ministering."

¹⁰ Deacon, Teacher, and Priest are offices in the Aaronic Priesthood. Elder is an office in the Melchizedek Priesthood, which is required for a man to receive his temple ordinances.

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¹¹ Florence Annetta Fairbanks Cope, wife of Bishop James Austin Cope, Jr.

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